

a means coupled between the engaging means and the attaching means for resiliently rotationally biasing the engaging means relative to the attaching means.

16. (Once Amended) ~~The bracket of claim 15 wherein the biasing means is~~
~~A bracket for securing a tool having an elongated portion, the bracket comprising:~~
5 ~~a means for attaching to an external structure;~~
~~a means rotatably coupled to the attaching means for securely engaging an elongated~~
~~portion of a tool; and~~
~~a resilient biasing means structured to supply a torsional force between the engaging~~
~~means and the attaching means for resiliently rotationally biasing the engaging means relative to~~
10 ~~the attaching means.~~

18. (Once Amended) The bracket of claim 15 wherein the engaging means includes means for retaining a-an elongated portion of a tool that is engaged therewith.

REMARKS

In the Drawings:

15 In an Amendment filed August 24, 2002, the Applicant corrected a typographical error in Figures 1 and 2. The Applicant neglected to include the substitute drawings with that Amendment. The substitute drawing incorporating the corrections to the Figures 1 and 2 is attached. Red-lines showing the corrections to the figures are attached for a second time. No new matter is added.

20 In the Claims:

Claims 1-20 remain in the case. Claims 19-20 stand allowed. Claims 3, 4, 8, 12-14, 16 and 17 were objected to. Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9-11, 15 and 18 stand rejected.

Claims 1, 4, 15 and 18 are amended. Claims 3 and 16 are rewritten in independent form.

25 The Examiner is thanked for reconsidering and withdrawing the restriction requirement mailed on July 24, 2002, and finding that all 20 claims read on the elected species.

Claim Objections:

Claims 4, 15 and 18 were objected to for informalities. Appropriate corrections are made.

Claims 3, 4, 8, 12-14, 16 and 17 were objected to as being dependent upon a 5 rejected base claim. The Examiner is thanked for finding that claims 3, 4, 8, 12-14, 16 and 17 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 3 and 16 are rewritten in independent form and are now believed to be allowable.

Claims 4, 8, 12-14 and 17 are believed to be allowable as depending from allowable 10 base claims, as discussed below. Therefore, the Applicant declines to rewrite claims 4, 8, 12-14 and 17 in independent form at this time, but reserves the right to do so in the future.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 102:

Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9-11, 15 and 18 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent 6,484,913 to Hancock et al.

15 Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9-11, 15 and 18 are patentable over Hancock et al.

Hancock et al. teaches an article support bracket for an elongate article such as a long gun, tool or another piece of equipment in position extending across the vehicle handlebars. See, Abstract.

The article support bracket as taught by Hancock et al. includes a support post 20 88 that extends upwardly from a base 86 and terminates with a ring 102 of equally spaced splines 90 around a top edge 104. The support post will receive an article holder 98 having an interiorly splined base 106 telescoped over the exterior splines of the support post 88. Column 2, line 66 - column 3, line 12.

Hancock et al. also teaches holes 92, 94 in the base 86 matched to holes 72, 74 25 for receiving bolts 82 to “secure” the article holder 98 in a “*desired angular relationship*” with the base 86. Column 3, lines 2-8 (emphasis added).

Claim 1 provides a tool bracket having a mounting base joined for relative rotation to a holder; and a resilient biasing member coupled to each of the holder and the

mounting base and being *structured to promote rotation between the holder and the mounting base.*

Hancock et al. fails to anticipate the tool bracket as presently recited in claim 1. Rather, in contrast to the resilient biasing member recited in claim 1, the bracket as taught by 5 Hancock et al. provides matching holes 92, 94 and 72, 74 used by bolts 82 to "secure" the article holder 98 in a fixed angular relationship with the base 86. Column 3, lines 2-8.

Hancock et al. reinforces this limitation by teaching the article holders 98 including vanes to secure an article in the article holder 98. Column 3, lines 19-23; see, also, Figure 2. In contrast, the invention presently recited in claim 1 relies on *only* the resilient biasing member 10 promoting rotation between the holder and the mounting base to secure the article.

For at least the above reasons, claim 1 is allowable as originally filed and currently amended. Claims 2 and 4-8 are allowable as depending from allowable claim 1.

Claim 9 as originally filed differs in scope from claim 1. However, the above arguments directed to claim 1 are sufficiently applicable to claim as to make repetition 15 unnecessary. Thus, for each of the reasons above, claim 9 is believed to be allowable over the cited art as originally filed and without amendment.

Claims 10-14 are allowable as depending from allowable claim 9.

Claim 15 as originally filed and currently amended differs in scope from claim 1. However, the above arguments directed to claim 1 are sufficiently applicable to claim 15 as to 20 make repetition unnecessary. Thus, for each of the reasons above, claim 15 is believed to be allowable over the cited art as originally filed and currently amended.

Claims 10-14 and 17-18 are allowable as depending from allowable claims 9 and 15, respectively.

The claims now being in form for allowance, reconsideration and allowance is 25 respectfully requested.

For the Examiner's convenience, a clean copy of the amended matter, including the changes thereto, is provided in an Attachment hereto.

If the Examiner has questions or wishes to discuss any aspect of the case, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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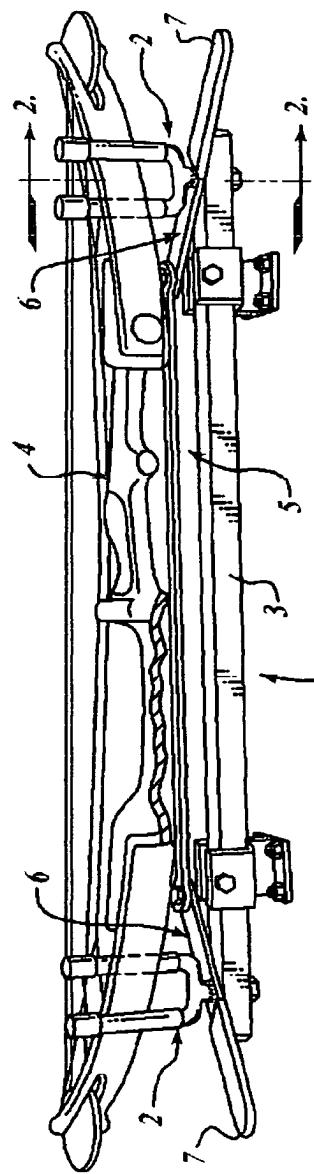


Fig. 1.
(PRIOR ART)

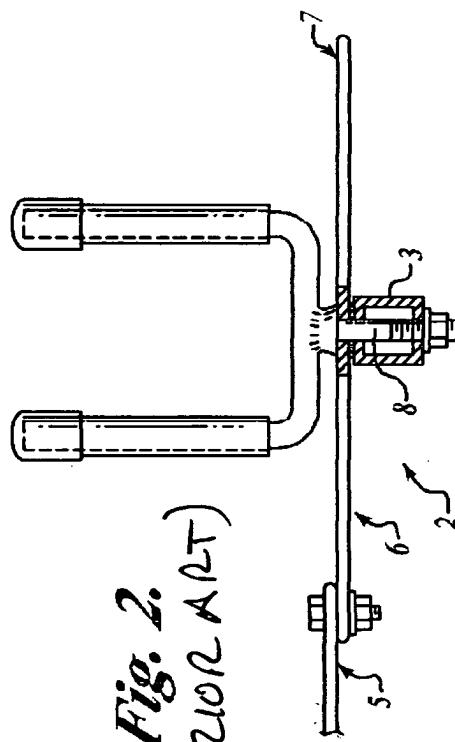


Fig. 2.
(PRIOR ART)